

Message Text

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10

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 HEW-08 SCI-06 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 RSR-01 /052 W
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R 090505 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7114

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EIND, PK

SUBJECT: PHARMACEUTICALS: HEALTH MINISTRY

MOVE TOWARD COMPROMISE IN FACE

LEGAL ACTION TAKEN BY PHARMACISTS

REF: KARACHI 0520

1. HIGH COURT OF SIND AND BALUCHISTAN HEARING ON
WRIT PETITIONS FILED BY RETAIL PHARMACISTS (SEE PARA. 3
REFTEL) TOOK PLACE IN KARACHI AS SCHEDULED APRIL 6.

2. WHEN HEARING OPENED PAKISTAN ATTORNEY GENERAL
YAHYA BAKHTIAR APPEARED FOR DEFENSE AND REQUESTED
POSTPONEMENT COURT DECISION PENDING CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN PHARMACISTS AND HEALTH MINISTER IN
ISLAMABAD AIMED AT SORTING OUT DIFFICULTIES, WHICH HE PROPOSED
FOR APRIL 9. PLAINTIFFS ACCEDED TO GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL AND WILL
ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH MIN. HEALTH AS REQUESTED. IN
MEANTIME ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS SUBMITTED THAT
MIN HEALTH WILL TAKE NO ACTION FOR TEN DAYS AGAINST DRUGGISTS
FOR NON- SUBMISSION WRITTEN DECLARATIONS OF BRAND
NAME INVENTORIES WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REQUIRED
BY APRIL 7 UNDER THREAT PENAL ACTION. HIGH COURT JUDGE
IN TURN HAS POSTPONED HEARING ON WRIT PETITIONS FOR TWO
WEEKS WITH APPROVAL OF PLAINTIFFS.

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3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT PPMA WITH WHOM DPO SPOKE
FEW HOURS AFTER INITIAL COURT HEARING NOT YET
CERTAIN WHAT MIN HEALTH RESPONSE MAY PORTEND.
ALTHOUGH MIN HEALTH MAY SIMPLY BE STALLING IN ORDER
TO DRAFT NEW ORDINANCE, IF SECTIONS OF PREVIOUS L. MILLION
HAS BEEN APPROVED BY U. S. CONGRESS.

PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED EFFORTS OVERCOME BALANCE-
OF- PAYMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE PROBLEMS. RATE OF GROWTH
OF GNP IN FIRST HALF OF 1972 WAS ABOUT 6.5 PERCENT IN
REAL TERMS. INFLATION SLOWED DURING FIRST HALF OF 1972,
BUT SHORTAGES AND DISLOCATIONS CAUSED BY JULY AND AUGUST

FLOODS BROUGHT SUDDEN SPURT OF FOOD PRICE INCREASES.
ADDED TO THESE REVERSES WAS SHARPLY MOUNTING TRADE DEFICIT
OF DOLS 100 MILLION FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1972. DEBT
SERVICE RATIO, AT 28.1 PERCENT FOR 1971, CONTINUED TO BE
HIGH.

THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN SHARED ABOUT 65 PERCENT OF
TOTAL PHILIPPINE TRADE, WITH U. S.- PHILIPPINE TRADE
TOTALING DOLS 836 MILLION IN 1971. UNITED STATES PARTICI-
PATED ACTIVELY IN CONSULTATIVE GROUP, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED
IN 1970 FOR PHILIPPINES BY THE IBRD. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE NOTING PHILIPPINES' MOVEMENT AWAY
FROM FORMER SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH U. S. AND REFERRING
TO TROUBLES DURING 1972, THE REPORT EMPHASIZES CONSTRUC-
TIVE EFFORTS OF THE GOP AND CONTINUING SUPPORT OF U. S.
FOR SUCH EFFORTS.

4. WE HAVE DWELT ESPECIALLY UPON THE INCREASED VALUE OF
OUR REGULAR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
AND THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF
AND LONGER- TERM REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION. ROGERS

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